

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8475

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT RH

SUBJ: SMITH CAMPAIGN SPEECHES

REF: PRETORIA 3997

1. SUMMARY: IN THE COURSE OF TWO CAMPAIGN SPEECHES ON AUGUST 16, PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH MADE THE POINTS THAT BRITAIN SHOULD NOT PUBLISH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT PLAN BEFORE THE AUGUST 31 RHODESIAN ELECTIONS OR BEFORE FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN FULFILLS HIS "MORAL OBLIGATION/ TO VISIT SALISBURY TO DISCUSS THE PLAN. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE PREFERS A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE, THAT HE WILL HOLD A REFERENDUM ON ANY SETTLEMENT, AND THAT IT MIGHT TAKE "A COUPLE YEARS" TO GET TO THE STAGE OF ELECTIONS ON A NEW CONSTITUTION. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED A CAMPAIGN SPEECH BY CABINET MINISTER ROGER HAWKINS, WHICH, TOGETHER WITH SMITH'S STATEMENTS GIVES AN INDICATION OF THE RHODESIAN FRONT CAMPAIGN STRATEGY. END SUMMARY.

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2. SPEAKING AT ELECTION MEETINGS IN SINOIA AND DARWENDALE ON AUGUST 16, RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH REPORTEDLY WARNED BRITAIN AGAINST PUBLISHING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PLAN BEFORE AUGUST 31 "IN THE HOPE THEY CAN STAMPEDE US." ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS, SMITH SAID ALTHOUGH RUMORS TO THAT EFFECT WERE

CIRCULATING, HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE SUCH AN ACTION WAS LIKELY, SINCE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN HAD ASSURED HIM THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO SALISBURY AND DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS "BEFORE FINALLY MAKING UP HIS MIND" AND PUBLISHING THEM. SMITH CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT "THERE IS NOT ONLY A MORAL OBLIGATION ON HIS PART TO DO THIS, I BELIEVE IT IS THE ONLY LOGICAL AND SENSIBLE THING TO DO. FROM THE HISTORY OF RECENT EVENTS, YOU CAN'T STAMPEDE RHODESIANS. IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT HE SHOULD CONSULT US. HE CONSULTED ALL THE BLACK POLITICAL LEADERS. TO CONSULT THEM AND NOT CONSULT THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT...WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY."

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM AT THE SINOIA MEETING, SMITH SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FOR A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE IN ANY NEW CONSTITUTION BUT COULD MAKE NO GUARANTEES. HE SAID HE WOULD FIGHT FOR THE BEST DEAL POSSIBLE FOR WHITES "AND WHEN WE HAVE GOT THE BEST DEAL, WE WILL PUT IT TO THE ELECTORATE IN A REFERENDUM....IN THE END YOU WILL SEE THE RESULT AND MAKE YOUR DECISION." HE SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT TAKE "A COUPLE OF YEARS" TO GET TO THE STAGE OF ELECTIONS ON A NEW CONSTITUTION. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON SCHOOLS, SMITH REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN THINGS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO RETAIN TO KEEP WHITE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENCE, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS. "THESE ARE THE THREE MOST SENSITIVE FIELDS. IF YOU DON'T RETAIN THEM YOU WILL NOT KEEP THE CONFIDENCE OF THE WHITE MAN. CLEARLY THIS IS WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR." ASKED IF SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA WAS PUTTING PRESSURE ON RHODESIA, SMITH REPLIED: "WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS. WE REASON WITH ONE ANOTHER. BUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT THE REST OF THE WORLD IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON IT BECAUSE OF ITS ASSISTANCE TO RHODESIA. ANY PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA AUTOMATICALLY APPLIES TO RHODESIA. WE ARE TOGETHER FIGHTING TO PRESERVE THE POSITION OF THE WHITE MAN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA."

4. A REPORT IN THE RHODESIA HERALD, MEANWHILE, STATES THAT MINISTER OF COMBINED OPERATIONS, ROGER HAWKINS, TOLD AN ELECTION MEETING AT SELUKWE THAT THE RHODESIA FRONT HOPES TO FORM A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE TOP LEADERS OF MODERATE AFRICAN PARTIES WHO HAVE RENOUNCED TERRORISM. HAWKINS SAID THAT WHILE THERE WAS "NO QUESTION" OF THEIR BEING AN AFRICAN

PRIME MINISTER OR A MAJORITY OF AFRICAN MINISTERS, HE BELIEVED THAT WHITES AND BLACKS COULD "GET ROUND THE TABLE AND TRY TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEMS." HAWKINS ALSO CRITICIZED FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN WHO, HE SAID, WAS REASONABLE AT FIRST, BUT "HAS NOW CHANGED AND IS TALKING ABOUT HANDING OVER IMMEDIATELY TO A GOVERNMENT ELECTED ON ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE, INCORPORATING THE TERRORISTS AND GIVING THEM POSITIONS OF COMMAND IN THE SECURITY FORCES."

6. COMMENT: IN THESE CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, SMITH AND HIS PARTY APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING THE STRATEGY, OUTLINED IN REFTEL, OF TRYING TO ACHIEVE A STRONG MANDATE FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, STOPPING SHORT OF ACTUAL REJECTION OF AN INTERNATIONALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.
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